



Thomas Lampe, Chair
Jason Leonard, Vice-Chair

John R. Benson
Homeland Security &
Emergency Management Division

Tom Berger
Epworth Fire Department
(Volunteer)

Tom Boeckmann
Department of Public Health

Kerry Devine
Waterloo Police Department

Judy Flores
Black Hawk Consolidated
Communications Center

Robert Garrison
Department of Natural Resources

Kelly Groskurth
Underwood City Clerk

Ted Kamatchus
Marshall County Sheriff's Office

Michael Kasper
Linn County Sheriff's Office

Tom Lampe
Department of Public Safety

Jason Leonard
Waverly Police Department

Sandy Morris
Des Moines Police Department
Communications

Rick Roe
Clive Fire Department

Patrick Updike
Department of Corrections

Robert A. Younie
Department of Transportation

Legislative Members
Senator Chris Brase
Senator Joni Ernst
Rep. Bob Kressig
Rep. Walt Rogers

SWIC
Jim Bogner
Statewide Interoperability
Coordinator3

Report to the Iowa Legislature **on the Status of the** **Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System** **Board (ISICSB)** **Calendar Year 2013**

Overview

During the first session of the 82nd General Assembly, the Iowa Legislature established a new Iowa Statewide Interoperability Communications System Board (ISICSB). 2007 Iowa Acts, House File 353, created Iowa Code Section 80.28, which addresses the membership of the Board, with Section 80.29 identifying its duties, as follows:

“A statewide interoperable communications system board is established, under the joint purview of the department and the state department of transportation. The board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system. For the purposes of this section and section 80.29, “interoperability” means the ability of public safety and public services personnel to communicate and to share data on an immediate basis, on demand, when needed, and when authorized.”

Legislative Report - 2013

The ISICSB has been in existence for six years.

The current Chair and Vice-Chair are as follows:

Chair: Thomas Lampe, Department of Public Safety
(515) 725-6113, lampe@dps.state.ia.us

Vice-Chair: Jason Leonard, Waverly Police Department
(319) 352-5400, jasonl@ci.waverly.ia.us

During this calendar year, there were four (4) local/state and two (2) legislative member changes in the Board.

Current ISICSB Members

Local Representatives

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>City</u>
Kerry Devine	Municipal Police Department (replaced Charlie McClintock, Cedar Rapids)	Waterloo
Judy Flores	Communication Center Manager	BlackHawk County
Kelly Groskurth	Member-at-Large (replaced Ron Miller of Fairbank)	City Clerk, Underwood
Sandy Morris	Communication Center Manager	Des Moines
Jason Leonard	Municipal Police Department	Waverly
Tom Berger	Fire Department (Volunteer)	Epworth
Rick Roe	Fire Department (career)	Clive
Ted Kamatchus	County Sheriff	Marshall County
Michael Kasper	County Sheriff (replaced Dina McKenna, Story County)	Linn County

Representatives

State Agency

John Benson	Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Tom Boeckmann	Department of Public Health
Thomas Lampe	Department of Public Safety
Robert Garrison	Department of Natural Resources (replaced Jason Sandholdt)
Patrick Updike	Department of Corrections
Robert Younie	Department of Transportation

Legislative Ex-Officio Members

Senator Chris Brase (replaced retired Tom Hancock)
Senator Joni Ernst
Representative Bob Kressig
Representative Walt Rogers (replaced Joel Fry)

Communications Interoperability Efforts

The ISICSB holds monthly public meetings, typically on the last Wednesday of the month, except for a combined November-December meeting due to the holidays. The ISICSB maintains a web site at www.isicsb.iowa.gov where its activities and information is posted.

During 2013, the ISICSB addressed its legislative mandates, as contained in Iowa Code 80.29, as follows:

1. Implement and maintain organizational and operational elements of the board, including staffing and program activity.

- From its inception in 2007, the ISICSB has relied upon Federal Interoperability Fund Grants to support the Board. No state funding was appropriated with its creation. Additionally, each Board member has a full-time professional position and performs their Board duties on a part-time basis. As part of a national interoperability initiative, each state was to establish a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) position. This position is also consistent with this legislative mandated element. The salary for the SWIC, hired in 2010 and the only employee of the Board, had previously been paid for by those Federal Interoperability grants, which expired in May, 2013. Therefore, the Board had the opportunity to hire its first SWIC and evaluate the benefit which that position adds to the Board for a 3+ year period. This position has been critical to improving interoperability in Iowa, addressing these legislative mandates, and the resulting accomplishments of the Board. With the passage of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) legislation by Congress in 2012, a state and local broadband planning grant program was included. In 2013 this grant became available. Iowa applied for this grant, and in August was awarded funds partially supporting the SWIC's salary for a three (3) year period with the restriction that this grant can only be used for broadband planning activities, and not the SWIC's overall interoperability duties. Therefore, it is essential that annualized legislative funding be found for the remaining percentage of the SWIC's salary to continue the SWIC's general interoperability duties. Without this annualized appropriation, accomplishments relating to non-broadband interoperability will not be possible.
- Additionally, with the passage of the NPSBN Federal legislation, planning for the build-out of a public safety broadband network in Iowa has started. To educate Iowa's public safety communities about this new network and solicit feedback from that community about its communications needs and plan this statewide build-out, regional coordination meetings and local 'Town Hall' meetings will be required with public safety officials in each county. This will necessitate hiring one or two 'outreach specialist' contactors for this 3 year outreach planning activity, as further described below. These 'Outreach Specialist' positions will be supported by an Administrative Assistant. The above Federal broadband grant will fund these positions for the entire 3 year planning period. No state funding will be necessary. An RFP has been issued to fill these positions, which are expected to begin in January, 2014. To support this statewide planning activity, Regional Interoperability Advisory Committees will be formed, facilitated by the 2013 legislatively created interoperability points-of-contacts and composed of local public safety officials.
- In addition to the Board, the ISICSB created a Broadband Committee to address the planning and technology issues of this coming national network in Iowa. Besides two Board members, additional subject matter experts (SMEs) have been added to this committee, to include: the State CIO (Chief Information Officer), ICN Director, Governor's Office, Department of Management, E911 Council Chair, Connect Iowa Project Coordinator, and the Iowa National Guard. Governor Branstad has selected the ISICSB as the point-of-contact for the NPSBN planning process and implementation in Iowa. This committee meets on a regular basis to become more informed about broadband technology and private companies engaged in broadband networks.
- The Governance Committee will continue its ongoing outreach work, in conjunction with other Board committees, to work with local governance public safety community partners/users in a collaborative way to establish regional governance presence throughout the State of Iowa.
- The Governance Committee believes that effective and collegial relationships with local governance public safety community partners/users is the most effective way to develop and promote effective governance policies and practices that serve both the local public safety communities in Iowa and also the State of Iowa.

- The Governance Committee anticipates leveraging local governance public safety community partners/users for knowledge and advice in 2014 and following years as the Board works through the very important task of developing/implementing the new Statewide 700 MHz Land Mobile Radio Network in Iowa.
- The Governance Committee anticipates also leveraging local governance partners/users for knowledge and advice in 2014 and following years as the Board works through the very important task of developing/implementing the new federally mandated/funded Public Safety Broadband Network in Iowa.
- The Governance Committee will work with its local governance public safety community partners/users to establish effective/appropriate governance practices and relationships that are the foundation of successfully operating both Public Safety Land Mobile Radio Network and the Public Safety Broadband Network.

2. Review and monitor communications interoperability performance and service levels on behalf of Agencies.

- The ISICSB and the E911 Council have coordinated their activities and scheduled their meetings at the same locations following one another to ensure greater coordination regarding interoperability between these two programs. As an example, the ISICSB used some of its Federal grant dollars to fund a 911 Feasibility Study in 2011 in order to take an in-depth look at Iowa's 911 PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) and explore best practices, greater efficiencies, and service levels. A final report of this study was issued in February, 2012, and furnished to the Legislature. (See that report posted on www.isicsb.iowa.gov for detailed results and recommendations.) Additionally, the SWIC and several ISICSB members participated in a 911 Task Force to review that report and issue a separate 911 Task Force report to the Legislature by December 1, 2012 with legislative recommendations to improve communications interoperability in Iowa. This initiative is ongoing as the Legislature has charged Homeland Security and Emergency Management with conducting a follow-up E911 Efficiency study with a resulting report with recommendations to the Legislature in 2014.
- In 2013, ISICSB management monitored public safety responses in Iowa that involved interoperability or the lack thereof. There were incidents in Iowa where the response involved a number of agencies responding and interoperability issues identified. Board management contacted those involved in the response, examined interoperability issues, and offered solutions that could solve interoperability communication issues that evolved from the incident. Some of the findings were: Lack of training field personnel on how interoperability channels work and available options to achieve interoperability with the equipment they use on a day-to-day basis. Policies in some instances were prohibiting officers from using interoperability channels because of the lack of updating the policy to reflect newer technology and the availability of more channels. In some cases, communication centers were only broadcasting on certain channels that some agencies could not monitor. Clearly, interoperability is still an issue preventing coordinating communications much of the time in the incidents examined. Iowa does not have a statewide communication system as do many other states. The Board will explore additional initiatives to improve interoperability in the coming year.
- During 2013, the ISICSB conducted a series of regional training workshops designed to improve interoperability, focusing the Department of Homeland Security's CASM (Communications Assets Survey and Mapping) tool described in # 9 and #10 following.
- The ISICSB scheduled "Regionalized" monthly board meetings with the intent of gaining more one-on-one local input from a broader range of local users on interoperability issues.

3. Establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols to ensure that interoperable communications systems function properly.

- The ISICSB is promoting the national policy of using Plain Language in radio communications throughout Iowa. The ISICSB approved a policy adopting the use of a minimum number of national interoperable channels in each radio as a statewide standard by January 1, 2014, and adopted the use of the national standard channel nomenclature (naming channels with standardized national names). The ISICSB developed and published ‘quick’ one page templates and instructions for ease of use and programming channels into radio equipment. However, because it is a voluntary compliance policy, the lack of any enforcement authority by the ISICSB is seen as a hindrance to this interoperability effort.
- Currently, the ISICSB has established an Operations sub-committee to generate a 700 MHz band - P25 unit ID policy and template. As each P25 (Project 25) radio has a unique identifier which a radio network uses to authorize access to their network, the purpose of this plan is to provide a logical and uniform process for the assignment of unique radio identifiers and thus eliminate the potential of duplication, which might cause a conflict during major event interoperable communications.

4. Allocate and oversee state appropriations or other funding received for interoperable communications.

- The legislation creating the ISICSB did not contain any state appropriations for its operation. From Fiscal Years (FYs) 2008-2012, the only funding received by the Board came from federal Interoperable Communications Grants, which have been substantially reduced or eliminated by the Federal Government. The last available Federal Grant expired in May, 2013. It was earmarked to fund the SWIC’s salary, Board operations, and stakeholder outreach and training efforts, and radio programming with national interoperable channels to improve interoperability. The ISICSB managed its funds very conservatively and were informed that it would be approved to continue to use those funds for one more year. However, with the Federal sequestration, the grant extension was denied and those budgeted projects were left without the required funding.
- For Fiscal Year 2013, the ISICSB received a one-time state appropriation of \$48,000 to conduct its business and accomplish its legislative mandates, contained herein, for the remainder of that FY. It has been used for operational funding for the Board and is anticipated to be used to fill a shortfall gap in the SWIC position funding this fiscal year until FY 2014-15 state funding can be obtained.
- In August, 2013, the ISICSB, on behalf of the State of Iowa, received a \$1.6 Million Federal Grant to plan the future build-out of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) in Iowa. This grant is restricted to specifically this initiative and includes planning, outreach, education of public safety and elected officials, inventory of existing assets that could be leveraged for this broadband network, and funding for any personnel costs directly related to this initiative, e.g., a percentage of the SWIC’s salary directly attributable to his work on broadband. State funding must be secured for the remaining percentage of the funding for the SWIC to achieve non-broadband interoperability results.

5. Identify sources for ongoing, sustainable, longer-term funding for communications interoperability projects, including available and future assets that will leverage resources and provide incentives for communications interoperability participation, and develop and obtain adequate funding in accordance with a communications interoperability sustainability plan.

- (See #4 above.)
- As stated in last year’s legislative report, the ISICSB advised it would be working on a proposal for sustainable funding. It did do that and for FY 2014-15, the ISICSB is submitting its first full-

year budget to the Iowa Department of Management. In its previous legislative reports, the ISICSB identified several legislative mandates that it could not accomplish due to a lack of funding. The goal is to achieve funding for Interoperability allowing board to operate sufficiently, efficiently, and to use appropriation as leverage in securing grants for further funding of Interoperability. In order to continue its work, funding for FY 2014-15 must be secured - and on an annualized basis. The ISICSB must receive the necessary annual state appropriations to sustain its operations and critical staffing needs as outlined above.

- In its long-term planning, the ISICSB has developed a budget for FY 2014 as part of a five (5) year plan. This was a difficult project as it is the first time the ISICSB has completed a budget for a state appropriation. In the past, the Board only operated from grant funds that were specifically addressing national interoperability issues, and therefore only had a financial history of specific projects, and minimal board operations. By working together, we have created a reasonable budget and 5 year fiscal plan that will give the Board and the state a guide to interoperable funding needs. Upon the completion of the next fiscal year, the Board will evaluate its first-year budget and make appropriate adjustments to the five (5) year plan and the budget for FY2015-16.
- As reported last year, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) mandated that radio communications below 512 MHz, which includes most agencies in Iowa, had to be 'narrowbanded' by January 1, 2013, unless a petition for an extension was approved. Iowa's public safety agencies (Department of Public Safety, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Corrections) received a short-term extension until 2014 due to their at end-of-life equipment and therefore the need to build a new FCC compliant system. An RFP (Request for Proposal) was issued in October, 2013. The results of which will not be available until after this report. This proposed system will substantially improve radio coverage and interoperability among agencies. Once this system is approved and built, any assets used in building that system will be evaluated and leveraged, where possible, to achieve greater interoperability. The ISICSB will evaluate the need to obtain any funding to achieve interoperability for local agencies at that time.
- With the passage of the Federal Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) legislation, Iowa will be participating in the planning and build-out of this nationwide broadband network to supplement public safety's land mobile-radio communications networks with interoperable data capabilities, and a plan to achieve sustainability for that network from Federal funding.
- The ISICSB respectfully asks the legislatures to fund our board adequately to ensure ongoing, sustainable, long-term funding for communications interoperability. Funding for the ISICSB will allow the board to seek and receive grant opportunities. Without funding (local match,) the ISICSB has and will be denied of many grant opportunities for interoperability. Local (state) funding is essential for sustainability of interoperable communications now to educate, and build infrastructure and to maintain infrastructure. The Board will continue to seek and apply for grants and outside funding; however, state support is crucial in receiving such funding.

6. Develop and evaluate potential legislative solutions to address the funding and Resource challenges of implementing statewide communications interoperability initiatives.

- Board management and the SWIC worked all year in 2013 to establish funding for the operational needs of the Board. Board management met with Department of Management on a regular basis along with our senators and representatives to establish an Interoperability fund that is now assigned to the Board for Broadband and general interoperability needs. However, that funding was a one-time allocation in the amount of \$48,000. In order to continue its mission, the Board requires an annualized appropriation, especially with the loss of federal funding. As a

result of the work of the ISICSB and its Finance Committee, the ISICSB Chair and SWIC have been working with the Department of Management and the Department of Public Safety on a proposed annual budget for the ISICSB, which would be used to support the Board's non-broadband work.

- In August, 2013, the Board, on behalf of Iowa, received a Federal broadband planning grant, known as the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) in the amount of \$1.67 Million for a three (3) year planning period to specifically focus on planning for the build-out in Iowa of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), a high-speed wireless broadband network specifically for public safety. This broadband network will supplement and compliment public safety's land-mobile radio systems. This grant can also be used to fund 50% of the SWIC's position, with the restriction that that 50% has to be entirely devoted to broadband planning initiative of the NPSBN. After three (3) years, this grant will expire.
- As a solution, funding obtained from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) would seem appropriate.

7. Develop a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system that allows for shared communications systems and costs, takes into account infrastructure needs and requirements, improves reliability, and addresses liability concerns of the shared network.

- In 2012, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Department of Corrections (DOC) began working together with the ISICSB to develop a plan and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for using State infrastructure and leveraging any other state resource that could be used to develop a communications interoperability radio system. That effort was recalled and a new RFP process was initiated.
- In 2013, the ISICSB management monitored and assisted with an RFP for a statewide Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Department of Corrections (DOC) 700 MHz land-mobile radio (LMR) statewide system. ISICSB concluded that this RFP is essentially the system that will serve as the anchor for establishing the interoperability system in Iowa. ISICSB will work closely with this RFP process and offer any support and or assistance with the planning of how the system will serve as the core network for all of public safety in Iowa
- In November, 2013, a revised RFP was issued by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on behalf of the DPS, DOT, DNR, and DOC soliciting bids for a statewide system to serve these agencies. That RFP is still pending at the time of this report with responses due in a few weeks.
- On-going process with input gathered from local users on a continuous basis to ensure that the actual state-wide system operational protocols remain fresh and up to date.

8. Investigate data and video interoperability systems.

- Iowa was one of twenty-one jurisdictions (one of seven states) to be granted an FCC license to build a public safety high speed wireless network for data and video interoperability, the precursor to the NPSBN. The ISICSB applied for, but did not receive a federal grant to initiate construction of this network. The grant was denied because the ISICSB lacked the 20% matching fund requirement and had no sustainable state appropriations.
- Despite the lack of funding, the SWIC has aggressively explored the latest industry developments in high-speed LTE (Long Term Evolution) data and video networks. The SWIC has been extremely involved nationally in the development of a nationwide interoperability

broadband framework and protocols, which would allow interoperability not only within Iowa, but with its adjacent states and the national network. The ISICSB's SWIC is Vice-Chair of the national Early Builders Advisory Council (EBAC) investigating these systems.

- The ISICSB issued an RFP and sponsored a demonstration project of the LTE technology for public safety and elected officials during the Iowa State Fair in August, 2012. This provided education regarding the capabilities of this high-speed technology for public safety as proposed in the NPSBN legislation. The ISICSB sponsored a second LTE demonstration during the months of February and March, 2013. This event for public safety, the Legislature, and other elected officials, demonstrated several public safety user devices on a live 700 MHz broadband network in a multi-discipline first responder incident – that being a simulated multi-car crash in a blizzard on I-80. This simulated incident required a coordinated response from law enforcement, emergency Medical Services (EMS), and fire, and a trauma center, in which these first responders exchanges critical information not only by radios, but a wireless broadband network. One example was the sharing of maps on smartphones and tablet devices to direct first responders to the I-80 scene around blocked access points.
- With the passage of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) legislation by Congress in February of this year mandating the build-out of a public safety broadband network in each state, the ISICSB created a Broadband Committee to address the planning and technology issues of this coming national network in Iowa. Besides Board members, additional subject matter experts (SMEs) have been added to this committee, to include the State CIO (Chief Information Officer), ICN Director, Governor's Office, Department of Management, E911 Council Chair, and Connect Iowa. Governor Branstad has selected the ISICSB as the points-of-contact for the NPSBN planning process in Iowa.

9. Expand, maintain, and fund consistent, periodic training programs for current communications systems and for the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system as it is implemented.

- The ISICSB has established and maintained a periodic training program for Iowa's public safety officials through a series of regional workshops facilitated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), and presented throughout the state. The ISICSB has acquired several national DHS/OEC interoperability tools for these efforts, such as:
 - The Communications Unit Leader (COML) training course conducted in March in the Council Bluffs area where 23 first responders were trained on preparing communication plans for disasters as well as large-scale events, such as Ragbrai, in situations where multiple agencies and disciplines (law enforcement, fire, EMS, etc.) need to effectively communicate.
 - The Communications Technician (COMT) training course conducted in June in Iowa City for 12 first responders, who were trained on the technical aspects of setting up interoperability equipment to support the communication plans developed by the COMLs. The COMTs are taught how to connect radios of different frequencies and bands in multi-agency public safety responses so on-scene law enforcement can talk to fire, etc. in situations where this normally does not occur.
 - Following up on the above technical training, a series of two Audio Gateway workshops were held in April in West Des Moines for about 30 attendees to support Iowa's Emergency Managers and others. Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division used grant funds to purchase 12 Audio Gateway devices, which are electronic boxes that allow one to connect radios of different frequencies or bands to allow agencies to talk to one another where normally that would not be the case. The ISICSB conducted

two workshops to show those who received these gateways on how to effectively use them, as no separate training came with these acquired devices.

- In May, a multi-state workshop was held in Des Moines to put together a standard recognition and credentialing process for the COML and COMT positions in Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas. This process ensures trainees take the relevant courses and then demonstrate their skills so that they are not only better prepared to use these skills in Iowa, but regionally and nationally, if requested. So far, 6 individuals have successfully completed this process in Iowa and have been recognized and credentialed by the ISICSB.
- In July, a functional communications exercise was held in Des Moines conducted by DHS/OEC for COMLs and COMT to practice their skills in a simulated event. Twenty-two (22) individuals participated in this valuable communications interoperability exercise.
- In October and November, a series of five (5) regional workshops were held throughout the state to train public safety officials in the use of the Communications Assets and Survey Mapping (CASM) tool and in preparing Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICP). CASM is a secure national DHS/OEC public safety communication database in which agencies enter their communications capabilities (equipment, frequencies, etc.) and in emergencies or the need, they can quickly determine if they have interoperability with other assisting agencies. This tool is invaluable in emergencies when the ability to interoperate with other responding agencies, such as in the aftermath of a tornado, is critical and every minute in delayed response coordination affects lives and property. Training was provided to 5 classes with 35 attendees representing 27 agencies.
- The above efforts are those training initiatives which, although they do not replace a statewide communications system, do improve interoperability in situations like Iowa's where public safety uses many disparate radio systems to communicate.

10. Expand, maintain, and fund stakeholder education, public education, and public official education programs to demonstrate the value of short-term communications interoperability solutions, and to emphasize the importance of developing and funding long-term solutions, including implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.

- (See #9 above.)
- Besides the ISICSB's efforts regarding improving interoperability with traditional land-mobile radio (LMR) systems, the ISICSB has initiated stakeholder education regarding the new Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) system to be built in the near future in every state as part of a single nationwide high-speed wireless broadband network designed to supplement and complement public safety's LMR systems. A Federal grant has been obtained, which will fund stakeholder education and planning for this coming network over the next three (3) years. Pilot outreach workshops have been held in October and November of this year in Boone and Marion counties respectively to gauge stakeholder base knowledge and tailor the outreach efforts to be most effective. Approximately 37 individuals attended these two pilot workshops.
- In July, DHS/OEC facilitated an ISICSB organized workshop to develop a comprehensive Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Previously, only the ISICSB developed annually a SCIP for Iowa. However, the E911 Program and E911 Communications Council, an advisory group to the E911 Program Manager, are overseeing the enhancement of Iowa's 911 system from E(enhanced) 911 to NG (next generation) 911, an all Internet-Protocol

network, which will eventually converge with the NPSBN that the ISICSB is overseeing. Therefore, in order to provide Iowa's public safety officials with a single comprehensive communications vision, the ISICSB invited the E911 Council and Program Manager to jointly participate in a 2-day workshop that resulted in a unified and coordinated SCIP, the first to be done in Iowa. This SCIP contains a vision, objectives, and goals for the Council and Board.

11. Identify, promote, and provide incentives for appropriate collaborations and partnerships among government entities, agencies, businesses, organizations, and associations, both public and private, relating to communications interoperability.

- (See #10 above regarding the initiative for a single unified SCIP for Iowa between the ISICSB and E911 Program and Council.)
- (See # 7 regarding the collaboration and issuance of a statewide multi-state agency RFP for a land-mobile radio (LMR) system.)
- The ISICSB has been involved in the Governor's "Connect Every Iowan" broadband initiative, which is focusing on providing critical broadband services to every Iowan, particularly in rural Iowa. In any build-out of this magnitude for the general public and businesses, involving public-private partnerships, it is important to manage wisely taxpayer dollars and maximize any incentives. Therefore, the ISICSB is coordinating their NPSBN planning and proposed build-out efforts throughout Iowa with the efforts with the Governor's STEM Committee, which is making recommendations to the Governor regarding his initiative, to ensure the state and private entities are maximizing benefits, forming public-private partnerships where appropriate and feasible, and leveraging all available assets in order to avoid any duplication or waste.

12. Provide incentives to support maintenance and expansion of regional efforts to promote implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.

- (See #7 regarding the multi-state agency land-mobile radio RFP.)
- After the responses are received, and the state agencies decide their course of action, the ISICSB will examine the results to determine what incentives may be feasible to support the maintenances and expansion of any state system regionally to promote the implementation of a statewide integrated public safety interoperable communications system.

13. In performing its duties, consult with representatives of private businesses, organizations, and associations on technical matters relating to data, video, and communications interoperability; technological developments in private industry; and potential collaboration and partnership opportunities.

- ISICSB hosted an LTE demonstration using Harris Corporation and Racom equipment to show the capabilities of the FIRSTNET network. Other vendors, such as US Cellular, Athena GTX of Des Moines, and Mechdyne Corporation of Marshalltown participated in the demonstration, furnishing user equipment to demonstrate how and with what type of equipment first responders could use the NPSBN. For 2 months for a total of 5 sessions, public safety and elected officials, to include state legislators, were invited to attend and see the future tools for public safety in Iowa.

- Regarding commercial wireless carriers, Verizon provided a briefing and demonstration to the ISICSB's Broadband Committee regarding the capabilities of the Verizon Network in Iowa. Other carriers have been contacted to provide similar briefings. Meetings were also held with Iowa Network Services (INS) regarding the fiber infrastructure they have in Iowa for potential use in the build out of FIRSTNET in Iowa.
- As an internal education component, the ISICSB has encouraged its Board members to attend national conferences and demonstrations to learn about emerging products, capabilities, services, and opportunities available from private businesses, vendors, and organizations.
- Both the SWIC and ISICSB Chair are members of APCO (Association of Public Communication Officials), an organization which promotes education training, and collaboration of emerging and developing technologies. The SWIC is a member of APCO's national Broadband Committee to collaborate and stay abreast of these technologies and standards development.

14. Submit a report by January 1, annually, to the members of the general assembly regarding communications interoperability efforts, activities, and effectiveness at the local and regional level, and shall include a status report regarding the development of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system, and funding requirements relating thereto.

- This report complies with this requirement.
- Additionally, the SWIC coordinated Iowa's first joint SCIP (Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan) Workshop with the ISICS Board and the E911 Communications Program Manager and Council. This joint group prepared a combined communications vision for Iowa outlining the ISICSB's and E911 Communications Council's statewide interoperability vision and strategic plan for Iowa. It can be accessed at: <http://www.isicsb.iowa.gov/index.html>